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has sent forth a lower prolongation, which crosses the course of the Quorra nearly at right angles, and terminates, at the end of 1500 miles, at the sources of the Quorra, Gambia, and Senegal. A minor counterfort advances from the central range to the north-westward, commencing about the peak of Mendefy and vanishing at the end of about 900 miles in the desert of the Tuariks. It gives rise to the two Sharys which flow in opposite directions to the Quorra and the lake Tjad, and further north to the streams which flow to the same two recipients from about Kano and Kashna.

Though the knowledge of Interior Africa now possessed by the civilized world is the progressive acquisition of many enterprising men, to all of whom we are profoundly indebted, it cannot be denied that the last great discovery has done more than any other to place the outline of African geography on a basis of certainty. When to this is added the consideration, that it opens a maritime communication into the centre of the continent, it may be described as the greatest geographical discovery that has been made since that of New Holland. Thrice during the last thirty years it has been on the eve of accomplishment; first, when Hornemann had arrived from Fezzán at Nyffé; secondly, when Park had navigated the Quorra as far as Bussá; and, lastly, when Tuckey, supplied with all possible means for prosecuting researches by water, was unfortunately expedited to the Congo, instead of being sent to explore the mouths of the NIGIR.

II.—*Notes on a Part of the Eastern Desert of Upper Egypt.* Accompanied by a Map. Communicated by J. Wilkinson, Esq. Read the 28th Nov. 1830.

[The following notes are extracted from a manuscript volume of Researches in Upper Egypt, by J. Wilkinson, Esq., the greater part of which consists of remarks on Egyptian antiquities, with reference to a large collection of drawings made by Mr. Wilkinson. With the exception of a journey on the Bahr Yousuf, by means of which Mr. Wilkinson corrects the position of Bahneséh, as laid down on the maps, and places it due west of Abugirge, on the Nile, the only remarks in the manuscript interesting to geography are contained in the following]

JOURNEY IN THE EASTERN DESERT.

IN February, 1823, I set off from Cairo, for that part of the Eastern Desert which lies north of Kénéh, in company with Mr. Burton,\* and protracted my stay in those mountains till the

\* An abstract of Mr. Burton's journal, transmitted to Mr. Greenough, appeared in the 'Morning Chronicle,' Oct. 23, 1824.





month of June, when I was obliged, by indisposition, to return as speedily as possible towards Cairo.

While at Benisoúef, where we remained some weeks, we caught several crabs, exactly resembling those of our sea, but very small. I have seen many of them also in Nubia, and other parts of the Nile. From Benisoúef we proceeded to the monastery of St. Antony, called, in Arabic, Deir (convent), Antonios, or Már (Saint) Antonios, a distance of about seventy-six or seventy-seven miles. Our road was, as may be imagined, uninteresting enough. The flatness of the plain\* is only interrupted now and then by gentle ascents and descents; a few trees and low shrubs in the beds of torrents, which continually cross it in different parts, were the only agreeable objects; and most of the streams were dried up for want of rain, little (in many places none) having fallen upon these mountains and plains for the last three years.

Wady Arabah extends from the beginning of the western extremity of these mountains to the Red Sea, in a direction nearly due east; it is said to have received its appellation from an ancient chariot-road, which our Arabs told us led towards the water of Zaffarána and the sea, but which we never met with on crossing the plain; indeed, on being asked to take us to see it, they confessed they did not know exactly where it was. I think it probable, however, that the remains of some such road may still exist there, and if so, probably near that watering-place. Another sheikh assured me, that there were three roads which led to this water; one of these, he said, takes the direction of Aréidy, but of the others he knew nothing more than that they were marked out and supported by large stones.

At Gebel Annaba† we stopped for water; there are two very good springs three or four miles from the plain; near each of which is one old deserted house, probably built by the monks of the neighbouring convent. The ravines are very fine and bold, and, judging from their depth, much water must fall there in the rainy season. The distance from thence to Deir Antonios is little less than twelve miles.

The inmates of this convent are Copts, living of course in the

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\* There is a gentle ascent from the Nile to that part of Wady Araba, called Wady Abourimth; while, from a little beyond that, the descent to the Red Sea is very rapid. Browne, in speaking of the canal connecting the Nile and Red Sea, in the direction of Cosseir, observes, that the water, if it ever flowed by such a canal, must have run from the Nile to the sea, and not from the sea to the Nile, a remark perfectly in harmony with the observations of every traveller who goes from the river to the Arabian Gulf. Pliny, however, (lib. vi. c. 29.) assures us that the Red Sea was found to be three cubits higher than the land of Egypt; though this difficulty would easily be removed if the assertion of a savant, 'that the Delta is now fourteen cubits higher than 3284 years ago,' could be admitted.

† This should perhaps be Ainebe, 'a grape.'

most frugal manner, as well from a religious superstition, as from the necessity which their self-banishment in an inhospitable desert has imposed upon them ; they are supported by voluntary contributions from the Copts of Egypt. Their principal saint is St. George of Cappadocia, but their patron is St. Anthony, of the Thebais,\* the friend and companion† of St. Paul, or Mar Bólos, who founded another monastery, called after his name, distant by the road about fourteen miles to the south-east. Deir Antonios is about seventeen miles, and Deir Bólos only nine from the Arabian Gulph. The monks of St. Anthony, so far from being able to give any account of the date of its foundation, do not even know who their founder was ; they pretend that 1700‡ years have elapsed since the time of his retirement into the desert and the institution of their order ; though in truth it happened only about 1516 years ago, in the reign of Constantine. In this alone they were correct, that their founder was a contemporary of that emperor.

Deir Antonios is inclosed within a wall from thirty to forty feet high ; the only entrance is a trap-door, from which the monks let down a rope to those whom they think fit to admit ; this permission is never granted to the Arabs, of whom they live in constant dread, and whose forbearance they are obliged to court by presents of wood and provisions when they encamp beneath its walls. The interior resembles the confusion of an Arab village, laid out without any plan or regularity. An insulated tower, defended by a drawbridge, is the keep of the fortification. They have three chapels, one of which they assert to be of the time of Constantine, and, from the general form and style of its architecture, I do not think this improbable. The walls are adorned with old frescos, and some stained glass remains in the windows ; there are also several Arabic, Armenian, Coptic, and other inscriptions.

In another chapel are some old pictures, interesting, inasmuch as they show the style of painting in this country in the early times of Christianity. There is also a modern painting of St. Athanasius the persecuted Bishop of Alexandria, and another of the Virgin, Joseph, and the Child, both of which are pretty good, and apparently of the Italian school. The screen divides the choir from the transept. In the aisles and naves of all the chapels ostrich eggs are suspended ; this is nothing less than an old Egyptian superstition, for as the ostrich watches her eggs till they are hatched, and never leaves them, the eggs were adopted

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\* Gibbon, vol. vi., p. 241.

† The brothers keep up the remembrance of the friendly intercourse which existed between their patrons by paying each other a ceremonious visit once every year.

‡ The present year is only the 1539th of the Coptic era, which begins from the persecution of Diocletian, called the Era of Martyrs, i. e. reckoning from the 29th of August, A.D. 284.

as the emblems of watchfulness. The number of the monks, by their own account, is sixty-three, though this, I think, exceeds the truth, unless they count their absent brothers. They informed us, that two hundred and fifty years ago, the convent was repaired and re-inhabited, after having been left without an inmate for seventy years, owing to the monks introducing within their walls a number of boy slaves, who, in course of time, growing up, and demanding permission to marry, on refusal rebelled and murdered their masters. They have two delightful gardens, abounding in fruit, principally dates; their olive-trees bear a very large fruit, some of which they preserve; they have also the caroub, or locust-tree,\* apricot, vine, &c.; nor are they deficient in vegetables. The gardens are well irrigated by channels of running water; and there are cisterns capable of affording a plentiful supply for many months, in the event of the Arabs† cutting off the communication with the sources, which are outside the walls.

I believe they have some books, but they were very unwilling to show us even their worn-out bibles, which they said were all they had. This is the conduct of all monks in the East, though it is well known that in some of the convents are to be found rare and valuable manuscripts. Deir Antonios is interesting as having been the place of abode and sepulture of the founder of monachism. The mountains at the foot, or rather on the edge of which this monastery is built, are calcareous; they also contain much salt.

*March 12.*—From St. Anthony we crossed the Wādy Arabah, in the direction of Deir Ebkhéit, or Bekhéit, about N.E. by N. Having heard that near that spot were some old copper-mines, we resolved on visiting them, in preference to the watering-place itself, where we understood there was nothing but a few palms,‡ and not even any remains of a convent; though I have no doubt, from the name, that the place was once the abode of monks, as well as many others § in these mountains, which bear the same prefix. Besides Deir Bekheit there are two other watering-places ||

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\* *Ceratonía Siliqua*.

† The name of Arabs properly and exclusively belongs to the natives of either desert, and is equivalent to Bédoui or Beddowee. Those settled on the Nile are called felláhs or labourers, whatever their origin may be, and never claim the title of Arab. The inhabitants of Cairo style themselves ‘Ebni Bélet,’—Sons of the Town, or Townspeople.

‡ I never saw or heard of any palms but near water; though in many vallies of the primitive mountains there are innumerable seyále, tamarisk, and other trees, the palm we never found but at the watering-places themselves.

§ As, Deir Bouerát, Deir Abouderráje, &c.; this last they said was a kuffri gadem, or old ruin.

|| The Arabs also brought us water from a spot called Hórrrheh, I believe a little to the E. or S.E. of the copper mines, but it was too much impregnated with sul-

in this part of the North Kalálla, at El Abbéia and El Khúllul; the water is there preserved after the rains in natural basins in the rock, as is generally the case in these mountains, where springs are very rare. The rainy season does not consist of more than five, ten, or twenty days, nor, from what the Arabs assured me, is it ever known to rain thirty days during the winter.

After a short day's journey of little more than twenty-one miles, we reached the low hills in which are situated the copper-mines of Réigatamerééh;—they have evidently been worked by the ancients, as well from the quantity of pottery and scorix there, as from the remains of the miners' houses, and the regular manner in which the caverns have been cut, following up the veins. Our arrival was welcomed by a gazelle, which some of the Sheikhs\* had shot. Fortunately for us, we soon had reason to find the accounts given in a modern publication of the horrors of this desert not a little exaggerated. So far from its being for the most part destitute of every trace of animals and vegetation,—so far from its being the Avernus of the winged tribe, and a mere parched sand abandoned by all reptiles but the ant, we had the pleasure of seeing, every now and then, gazelles and taytals† browsing under the shadow of the seyále,‡ or brought in by the Arab chasseur;—vultures and kites soaring above us; and, at evening, were visited by a strolling party of scorpions, and a wandering snake. Mr. Granger, too, is wrong in stating that the partridge is only found in the neighbourhood of the convents of St. Antony and St. Paul; we always met with grouse and partridges in great abundance at the different watering-places, but particularly at Howashéa, and the others in the primitive mountains in the south. As to the ruins of Alabastron being still visible to the north of Mount Kalil, and nearly in the same parallel with Oxyrhynchus, this will appear evident to every one, who examines the relative positions of these places, to be impossible, though those ruins may exist somewhere or other in these mountains.

Our next trip was to the sea. This part of the Arabian Gulph is called Mérse,§ (مرسي) Zaffarána, from the neighbouring moun-

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phur to be drinkable or wholesome. Khohr signifies a channel or bed of a torrent. The other watering-places between Dehr Bekheit and Suez are:

1. Melheh; salt water, as its name implies; 2. malaga or hours.
2. El Geséib.
3. Abouderráje, from twelve to fifteen miles from the sea.
4. Gwayb or gwebb, bitter water containing salts.
5. Alle-dhayb, in the Wady Rooáyby, bad-smelling water, beneath the sand.
6. Athwáyrig; 2 malaga from the former, bad water.
7. Ros Attága, near Suez,—rain water, but not a sufficient supply for one year.

\* Pronounced Sháýkh.

† Capra ibex.

‡ Acacia Seyal.

§ It is worthy of remark that Mérse means a beach or anchoring place, also an



tain, that joins and indeed may be considered as forming part of the Southern Kalálla. The shore is very flat, and the damp vapour which rises from the marshy soil must be exceedingly hurtful, and even dangerous in the hot season. One extremity of this bay, which is the termination of the Wády Arabah, is formed by the point of Abou Derráje, the other by that of Zaffarána. The small headlands, on the southern side, are a breccia rock of a late formation, composed of stones, shells, and other matter, connected by a calcareous cement. Among them were some very fine conchs,\* which I in vain attempted to detach from the rock. One of our Arabs here discovered, in the sand, a quantity of beads, stained glass, one or two European bullets, and cloth,—marking the burying-place, no doubt, of some Europeans.

From this place the caravan set off for Deír Bólos, by the short road, which lies between the upper and lower Zaffarána mountains; while the dromedaries followed that between the latter and the sea, crossing the point of the same name. In an hour and a half we came in a line with this long tongue of land, which runs out to a great distance, considerably increased by the shoal at its extremity; and beyond it we passed a small rocky headland, called E'Selymát Béud. We met with nothing interesting along this flat shore till we arrived at the low hills of Wady Girfe, which lie between Gebel Kólzim and the sea. Here we observed, on the summits of several of them, the remains of old houses; the walls, consisting, as usual, of stones placed on each other without cement, have, for the most part, fallen in, but the masonry appears to have been well constructed, and the ruins to be those of an ancient town intermediate between the position of Már Bólos and the sea. The dimensions of the rooms in the ruined houses vary from six paces by three, to eight by eight, or more; and one was upwards of thirty feet long. Amongst the rubbish within them were quantities of broken pottery, fish-bones, shells, &c. Though we found no cisterns, I have no doubt that water, conducted from the sources at the modern convent, was thus preserved here. Near the ruins is a small knoll containing eighteen excavated chambers, besides, perhaps, many others, the entrances of which are no longer visible. We went into those where the doors were the least obstructed by the sand or decayed rock, and found them to be catacombs; they are well cut, and vary from about eighty to twenty-four feet, by five; their height may be from six to eight feet. They are rounded at the upper end, and in many of them, at nearly two

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anchor; but this last is written مرسي Mersé. Zaffarán signifies saffron; but

I imagine this name has no relation either to the mountain or the promontory.

\* κογχους . . . μεγιστοι δε συγχανουσιν, ωστε μη ειδωσιν, απιστων αυτοις του μεγιδους την υπερεδωλην ειναι. Agatharcides de Rubro Mari, p. 29.

feet and a half from that wall, is a partition of hewn stone, stretching across from one side to the other, but not now, if ever, of any height. Some of the chambers are double, communicating by a door. In the largest we found several very fine crystals of salt: the rock is calcareous, and contains a quantity of fossils. We sought in vain for inscriptions or hieroglyphics; our curiosity was only rewarded by finding the scattered fragments of vases, bitumen, charcoal, and cloth. It is evident that the bodies were burnt, and the ashes, after the usual ceremony of bathing and wrapping them in these cloths,\* were probably deposited in the vases, of which innumerable broken remains are seen in every direction;—they are earthenware, mostly red, and heart-shaped, with a mouth of about three inches in diameter, terminating at the base in a point; the materials and workmanship are good.

To what people shall we ascribe these ruins?† The Egyptians did not burn their dead;—the other claimants are the Greeks and Romans; and of these the name Grády Rouémi, which the headland just below bears, inclines me in favour of the former, Rouémi or Rúmi signifying Greek.‡ Grády is a plant which abounds on the flat shore below these hills, and nothing is more common among the Arabs than to name their vallies and mountains from plants growing in them. A circuitous road of about seven miles led us to the convent of Deir Bólos;—it is situated in a more picturesque spot than that of St. Antony, and has a much cleaner and neater appearance, owing to its having been more recently repaired. The streets and houses are also laid out with some degree of regularity and order, though in size it yields considerably to the other. The monks, too, appear cleaner and richer,—are better dressed and lodged, and possess more luxuries;§ in this alone, however, superior to the brothers of the other convent; being uncouth and even inhospitable,—ignorant, and consequently suspicious, and scarcely condescending to answer the usual questions of the traveller.|| Their garden, though small, abounds in fruit-trees, as pomegranates, apricots, prickly pears, olives, figs, the nebek, and abundance of dates. It is supplied with water from the sources without the wall, which they preserve in cisterns. A new piece

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\* The cloth is found only in small pieces, and is very different from that in the mummy pits of the Egyptians.

† Will not this agree with the position of Ptolemy's Clysma?

‡ Greek, in Arabic, is Yunáni. The Arabs borrowed the name Rúmi from the Greeks of Byzantium.

§ They spread us carpets on a large Cairo mat; and the coffee, scented with cloves, was brought in handsome cups on silver stands. Pipes, too, of no inferior quality, were given us,—nor do they or the brothers of St. Antony consider it any crime to smoke within their walls. Pococke, vol. i. c. 6. That traveller has given a sketch (Pl. li.) of these two convents, which he describes in bk. ii. c. 7.—ED.

|| [Mr. Wilkinson was not, perhaps, aware that this reserve and silence are required by the rules of their order.]

of ground was added six years ago ; but as it was higher than their reservoirs, they would not take the trouble of raising the water, or adopt any plan for the cultivation of what must have required some labour and expense to inclose.

In their churches\* there are some pictures,—one of St. Mark and another of St. Athanasius, (which seem to be of the Italian school,) are the only two of any merit ; the rest are grotesque representations of saints, dragons, miracles, and madonnas painted on board, by artists of Alexandria. There is a chapel dedicated to St. Mercurius, below which is a subterranean one, reputed the oldest part of the convent ;—the lower part of it is cut out of the rock, and an apartment therein is shown, as the residence and place of prayer of their devout founder. The walls are adorned with stiff old frescos. St. Paul, they told us, was a nobleman of Alexandria, and a most dissipated and abandoned character ; but, repenting of his sins and warned by repeated visions, he changed his wicked course of life, became pious, and bidding adieu to the vanities of the world, at length founded, in the neighbourhood of the retreat of his friend St. Antony, the convent which still bears his name. He is generally said to have been the first who led a hermit's life ; but the venerable Antony was both monk and hermit—(*μοναχὸς καὶ ἐρημίτης*).

The monks reckon 1539 years since the establishment of the monastery, which agrees very well with the time in which St. Antony flourished ; nor is it believed, that the catacombs of Wady Girfe were ever inhabited by the disciples of their patron before the convent was built. Formerly, the monks were much more numerous than they are at present, each room containing four or more persons,—their discipline was more strict, and penance frequently was insisted on by the superior, on the commission of trifling faults ;—it was performed in the excavations above mentioned, which were continually kept free from the sand, which has since been washed into them by the rain. They admit that the catacombs were much older than even their subterranean chapel. Their number now consists of eighteen lay members and three brothers ;† the former may become brothers if considered deserving of this promotion : the choice depends on the Coptic patriarch of Cairo.

They informed us that there is a road across the mountains to Deir Antonios, practicable for camels as well as asses, and much nearer

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\* In both convents they have bells ;—their sound was new to us in Egypt. I never heard of any at Cairo but those of the Roman Catholic and Coptic convents, but these are very small, and within the chapels. Vansleb says that St. Antony is the only convent in this country with a bell ; and Pococke makes the same observation with regard to it and that of St. Paul.

† These last answer to our resident fellows of colleges, the former rank with under-graduates and servitors.

than the usual one taken by the Arabs, being but one short day's journey. They also told us, that during the wars, which, before the present Pasha had established order throughout the Arab tribes, existed between the Maázy and Abábde, these last often advanced as far as the convent, alternately repulsing and being repulsed by their adversaries. They added that the Abábde were very superior in behaviour to the Maázy; who were never known to express any thanks for the many necessities given them, independent of their food; while the former, on the contrary, when provisions were let down to them, always returned thanks by kissing the rope, and immediately left their walls, without offering any insult, or in any way molesting them. But, the fact is, that the Abábde were in a foreign land; this desert, and the rock on which the convent is built, belonged to the Maázy: who only tolerated it because it was convenient to them to have the means of obtaining provisions in that part of the mountain. At present, thanks to Mohammed Ali, the monks have no longer any fears from the aggression of any tribe.\* The Abábde are now much more powerful and numerous than the Maázy, and some of them have moved northwards into this desert, beyond Gebel Dokhán, with their families and flocks; but they seem a very quiet people, and have more simplicity of manners than their northern neighbours; their arms are chiefly spears, long knives, swords, and some guns, with these last, however, the Maázy being much better furnished. They have long bushy hair like the Nubians, which forms a most distinctive mark between the two tribes, the others wearing the cap and turban.

The monks are Ichthyophagi, and go down in small parties to the sea, where a two days' fishing suffices to load a donkey, which they keep within their walls; rice, lentils, and bread, are their principal, if not their only other food.

A few hundred yards to the north of the monastery is an insulated rock, through the upper part of which a hole, three or four inches in diameter, perfectly straight, has been perforated, but for what purpose, by whom, or by what instrument, it is impossible to say. There are many fossils in these mountains.

The Arabs, during our stay here, had a grand festival; a camel was killed, which had been bought by public subscription before their departure from the Nile, part of it was eaten † on this occasion, and the rest dried in the sun.

\* The Maázy and northern Abábde may be considered successors of the Ichthyophagi,—the southern Abábde and Bisharéch of the Troglodytes; though, in fact, the former were only a branch of Troglodytes, as we learn from Agatharceides.

† I am surprised that Pococke should say the Arabs do not eat the flesh of this animal. Vol. ii., c. ix.

From Deir Bólos we made an excursion to the sea, in the direction of Grády Rouémy. After a ride of three hours (about nine miles) we came to the beach, which we continued to follow in hopes of finding some port corresponding to the ruined village, but in vain. We only met with a wall of weed, sand, and fish-bones, raised in form of a crescent to keep off the north and east winds;—it was probably the lodging place of the monks of Deir Bólos. A quantity of broken spars, bamboo, and cocoa-nuts, the remains of some vessel from India;\* the skeletons of some unfortunate sailors, washed high upon the beach; a flat barren shore without trees, or herbage, save that which delights to grow near the Salt Sea; shallow water scarcely covering the sharp rocks,† which would be the inevitable destruction of any vessel driven upon them; such are the objects which present themselves on this coast. Several flights of titlarks passed us on their passage northwards. We found some dried fish,‡ very singular in form, but had neither time nor means to procure any alive.

Soon after our return to the convent we bade adieu to the last human habitation we were to meet with in these mountains, and set off for Gebel Tenásep; in two hours and three-quarters we reached some hills containing ammonites. In about three hours more we came in a line with the primitive mountains§ on our left, while the calcareous range of Kolzim still lay on our right. Here we found, for the first time, a tree called Toúthop: || it bears a pink flower, with six long stamina, one pistil, and three petals. Its berry is red, bitter, and not eatable.

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\* We found a piece of painted wood belonging to the stern of a vessel,—certainly of Indian workmanship. I believe this is the spot where the Calcutta transport was wrecked, in 1802.

† Conf. the Periplus of the Erythrean Sea: καθολον μιν ουν ουτος ο της Αραβικης χωρας ηπειρου παραπλους εστιν δυσορμος και ακαβαρτος, ραχλαις και σπιλοις απροσιτος, και κατα παντα φοβερη διο και εισπλειοντων μισον πλουν κατεχομιν. The greater part of these frightful rocks are coral, which are supposed to have given the name of Red to this sea.

‡ Agatharcides, mentioning the mode of catching fish practised by the Ichthyophagi, says, that when the tide had left the fish among the rocks and shallow holes, they went down and seized them, though often not without some difficulty and even danger. He includes the σκαρπιοι among those which were to be dreaded, by which he probably means crabs; and true indeed it is, that they will not only defend themselves, but even attack a person in the water, if at all molested by him, which happened to me at Myos Hormos. The dogfish, a species of shark, 'canis,' is also very common here.

§ The mountains on this side of the Arabian Gulph are calcareous, grit, granite, traprock, porphyry, &c. with some breccias: none hereabouts are volcanic, but there is a range of those mountains on the Arabian side of the sea, extending into Syria; by which several cities formerly, as well as in later times, have suffered, either from their eruptions or the subterraneous convulsions of volcanic matter.

|| Though the Arabs have no P in their language, yet it is often used in the pronunciation of their names of plants, towns, &c.; I have therefore introduced it here.

A short distance beyond is Wady Dtháhal, at the end of which is a spring of good water bearing the same name. We passed some rocks of micaceous schist approaching to gneiss, and a little farther on the junction of the primitive and grit-stone, from which we descended to the Wady Ghrásheca. Here we found some scratches on the rocks, and two or three Greek words and names.

About eight miles farther is Gebel Tenásep. The Arabs here brought us a táytal or bouquetin. The meat of this animal is not unlike mutton, but is much inferior to the gazelle; it is the ibex of Linnæus. The female differs very widely in form from the male; she is much smaller, and at a short distance it is almost impossible to distinguish her from a gazelle; her horns are short and nearly straight, but her forehead is broader than that of the gazelle, which is also made more slightly in the legs. The dogs caught a jackal during our stay near Tenásep—it was very small, with the ears and brush disproportionately long.

We now bade adieu to the secondary mountains, which diverge to the south and south-west, gradually lessening in height.

At Gebel Howasheca is a plentiful supply of excellent water; it is preserved after the rains in a natural basin in the granite, filled with small pebbles washed into it from the crumbling rock; these being removed, the water is found at a very small distance from the surface. We saw many partridges and grouse\* here.

About two hours to the northward is a small copper-mine, which must have required great labour to work it when gunpowder was unknown, the rock being hard granite. There are the remains of three old huts, and it may have been by the miners † that the words above mentioned were cut on the rocks, at the watering-place to which they must have resorted. About three hours from this copper-mine, and the same distance from the water of Howasheca, is another watering-place, called E'resays elli fi sayl el Howasheca, or Ereys el Howasheca: the water is good, but in a very small quantity; and the basin in which it is contained is so small, that the camels can scarcely drink from it: such was the report of the Arabs.

*April 10th.*—Thermometer 93° Fahrenheit, at mid-day; on the 3rd it was at 45° in the night. I think the average difference be-

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\* *Perdix Katá*, or *Damascena*, in Arabic, *gúttur* or *kútta*, a bird which the Arabs say knows the spot it leaves so well that it will fly from the greatest height to the very place of its abode without the least previous search; whence their proverb, '*yáraf el mówde' áhder min el katá*,'—'he knows (such and such) a place better than the grouse.'

† Near the water of Dara were marks on the rocks of similar forms.

tween the heat of the day and night in this country may be considered about 30°.

Having left Howasheea, we went by a short road over the mountains to Wady Abouhadth, where we awaited the arrival of the camels. This valley contains much herbage and a few trees, but principally the seyâle; they told us the gum of this tree would be gathered in two more months, and that it was preferable to that of the sont. The inner rind of its bark, like that of the yessur (a species of broom), is used for tanning. We started several quails, but all single birds.

*April 13th.*—This day, a warm wind, thermometer 91° at mid-day. In the evening we reached Gebel Hem-t-elabd,\* and early next day the majestic Ghrârib.† The water of this last mountain, which is excellent, is preserved in a large natural basin in the granite, capable of containing a supply for several years in case of no rain falling;‡ there are many other similar, though smaller reservoirs, which the torrents have formed; most of them are now dry, but two or three still contain water. In the large basin there is now a distance of ten feet between the surface of the water and the highest water mark. It is probable that in the vallies of the primitive mountains, below the sand, or rather decayed particles of the rock, which the torrents have brought down, there must be in places similar reservoirs of water in the granite, which, being compact, could retain it for a great length of time when not exposed to evaporation. I cannot otherwise account for the quantity of trees, the luxuriant appearance of their foliage, and the greenness of the herbage, which in the vallies of the secondary mountains are always parched up, or, at best, display but little signs of life.

During our stay here we ascended the mountain, which, from its steepness, and the frequent occurrence of ravines, is rather a fatiguing undertaking. The first evening we reached the base of the highest cone, where we slept, and ascended the next morning to the summit, from which we had a view of the mountains on either side of the sea and the different plains. We tracked the gazelles very nearly to the summit, and every now and then in the ravines found some solitary plants growing under the shade of a projecting stone. The peaks of this mountain resemble the Aiguilles near Mont Blanc; but to equal that mountain in beauty, it requires the lower parts to be covered with

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\* Properly Themil-t-el Abd,—‘the fount of the slave.’

† I will not pretend to decide whether this name is derived from, or bears any relation to, Hor, Horeth, Horeb, or the Horebites, (mentioned by a modern author as that of the country of the Troglodytes;) it signifies in Arabic ‘the setter,’ (of the sun,) from ghrarb, the west, probably because the mountain conceals the sun from the eastern side of the desert long before sunset.

‡ Burckhardt, p. 10. ‘On the Rainy Season.’

the woods and verdure of the Alps, and the desert plain below to be exchanged for the green meadows of Switzerland. I calculate the height to be 5513 feet above the ravine in the plain below, which is a few hundred feet above the level of the sea. We found a most striking difference between the heat below and that on the mountain. The thermometer in the valley had been  $80^{\circ}$  at sunrise,  $95^{\circ}$  at 9 A.M., and upwards of  $100^{\circ}$  at mid-day, a day or two previous to our ascent; but we found that at sunrise on the mountain (and that too not the highest part) it was  $46^{\circ}$ , and one hour afterwards the water in the zemzemah\* had not reached  $40^{\circ}$ .

*May 1st.*—Thermometer, sunrise,  $70^{\circ}$ , at mid-day  $93^{\circ}$ ; wind N.W. The khamsín had now begun; but we did not feel any bad effects from it during the whole of our journey in the mountains; the winds were now and then hot, but not so oppressive as on the Nile, where a great quantity of fine sand is always raised, which obscures the whole atmosphere. It has been erroneously supposed that the S.W. is the hottest and most prevalent wind during this season; one of the worst khamsín storms I ever saw was accompanied by wind from a northern quarter, another was from the S.S.E.; and I know that the wind this year, as well as last, prevailed from the N. and N.W. during the months of May and June.

Four hours south of Ghrárib is the watering-place of Gebel Dára. Here we found some ruined huts of miners, who had evidently, from the furnaces and copper scorïæ, smelted the ore in this spot. The huts are about seventeen in number, in one of them, much longer than the rest, were some burnt bricks, belonging perhaps to a furnace; but the two principal furnaces, which are of considerable size, lie a little lower down, on the side of the ravine, where there is a considerable quantity of scorïæ. The walls of these houses or rooms are four, five, and six feet high; and some I should think were nearly of their original height: they are made of stones piled on each other, and cemented together with moistened sand and gravel; the doors are about four feet high, and formed by a long flat stone laid transversely from wall to wall. We found a granite block hollowed out for a mill, which I should think intended for grinding the broken ore rather than corn. There are some marks of a road to the water, which has since been destroyed by the torrent, in the bed of which it lay. The supply, if not more ample than is now found, must have been but little for the number of people employed here, but they may have sent for whatever more was required from Ghrárib.

We next visited the copper-mines, which are about eight miles

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\* A bottle made of Russia leather.



to the southward, in a spot without either wood or water: on which account, probably, the ore was sent to Gebel Dára to be melted down. The rock at the latter place was worked only in one spot, where a shaft was sunk, about five feet and a half in diameter, and not now more than twenty-five feet deep. It contains but little copper, and the ore is very inferior to that of the principal mines.

The low hills in which these mines are situated have been all tried in search of ore, but in few are the excavations of any size. It would seem that these larger were the work of some government, while the smaller, which are confined to the surface, may have been the later attempts of individuals. We found no remains of huts. While encamped here, several flights of birds passed over, most probably migrating to the colder climes after the winter, as they all went in a northerly direction. Some were of the hern species, others the merops and oriolus, and of the hawk kind, &c.

*May 5th.*—Hot wind S.E. by S. Thermometer 101° Fahrenheit, at 11 A.M. The night was very stormy, and rain fell in the mountains to the north-west of us. The thermometer was 80°, and next morning at sunrise 78°.

On our way to Gebel Dokhán by the plain, we passed some calcareous rocks, and then a line of sandstone,\* with limestone over it, which ran parallel to, and at nearly an equal distance between, the two primitive ridges. The trees were all bent down to the south, from the great prevalence of the north-east winds. This is the case in Egypt, wherever single trees are much exposed.

*May 6th.*—Hot wind S.E. Thermometer 103° Fahrenheit, at 11 A.M., and each hot gust raising it immediately to 107°. At some distance to the east, we observed the site of a watering-place called El Enned.† It stands at the base of some limestone hills, which join the eastern primitive ridge.

We soon after reached Gebel Koóffra, where there is water. It is too salt to be drinkable, except by camels. Some of the Arabs, however, knew of other water, higher up in this mountain, but were not certain that it was sweet. Having gone to ascertain this point, they brought us some which was excellent. We were in great want of it, having already sent to Moie Mesayd, but in vain, all being dried up there. I imagine that the water of

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\* Judging from the angle of its dip, it formerly rose over the lower or eastern primitive range, from which, however, it is now separated by a valley, or bed of a torrent.

† The Wady Enned contains some hundred palms, and abundance of tamarisk trees. A small stream, running down the slight descent of the valley, forms a rivulet of the clearest water, which loses itself in the sand; but though the traveller might look on this as an unusually pleasant spot, his admiration would cease, when he learnt that the stream, which enlivens the scenery, is neither useful to himself nor his camels.

Koóffra, which is fresh at the mountain, becomes impregnated with salt afterwards, on its way to the spot where the Arabs water their camels.

At Gebel Dokhán, we had the satisfaction of seeing ruins\* of some extent ; of viewing those vast quarries,† from which Rome took so many superb pieces of porphyry to adorn her baths and porticos ; of contemplating the labour and expense incurred in making so many fine roads, which cross the mountains in all directions ; of walking in the streets and houses of the old inhabitants of an ancient town ; and, above all, of finding a temple in the midst of a now deserted and uninhabitable valley.

The chief difficulty in working these quarries was the want of water. It was removed by sinking two wells, one of which must have cost immense labour, being a shaft of about fifteen feet in diameter, sunk in a solid porphyry rock ;—it is now impossible to judge of its depth, being much filled up with earth, but there is still some distance to the spring ;—the actual depth of that part where it is solid rock is thirty-eight feet, and much more must be allowed for a good supply of water. It has a cistern attached to it, from which are led troughs for the cattle. The other well is more filled up, being altogether only twenty-two feet deep, with a diameter of fifteen feet ;—that part which is still visible is cased with stone. It is placed on one side of a circular space, which was perhaps once covered in, by means of a roof supported on pillars, five of which still remain. On them are scratched boats and various figures, also a few Greek letters above a cross. This last is near the town which the Arabs call Bélet Kebeer, or the large village ; the other is a ten minutes' walk distant, and in another valley.

The town was situated on a small height, at the base of the eastern mountain, and contained many houses of various forms and dimensions. At the north end is a square, around which seem to have been shops, where they worked small porphyry mortars, judging from the number of unfinished ones we found in them. In another long apartment, are some round holes in the earth, cased with terra cotta, apparently for the purpose of washing some mineral, though I see no other marks of anything having been wrought here but porphyry. A house, perhaps that of the præfect, consists of an area, on each side of which are four pillars, which perhaps once supported a covering ; beyond is a stuccoed cistern, and then a room, from which staircases lead to the upper story, at least to those rooms which are above, for the town is built on a declivity. The whole is surrounded by a wall, strengthened with

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\* Mr. Burton, in 1822, was the first traveller who visited these interesting remains.

† Pliny well describes their vast size, by observing—' *Quantislibet molibus cædendis sufficiunt lapidicinæ.*'—*Lib.* xxxvi. c. vii.

towers placed according to the nature of the ground. I consider the whole as a military station, containing workshops, storehouses, and every thing which the place might require. On the outside of the wall, to the south, is a separate building, either a furnace or a bath, more probably the latter.

Besides this town there are houses built on either side, at the base of the mountain, or upon the adjacent low hills, which were perhaps habitations of workmen. A little farther up the valley, to the south, is a small temple dedicated to Sarapis ;—it was never finished, though all the materials are on the spot; not a column was ever put up,—nothing was completed but the step on which they were to stand, and which was to form the base of the portico. The order is Ionic, the mouldings very simple, and the architecture superior to anything one could have expected to find in these mountains. In the area, which was paved with rude flat stones, stands an altar without inscription; it is three feet two inches high, and was once stuccoed. All the architectural part of the temple is of red granite: the inner part, which may be said to consist of an adytum and two wings, is of the usual piled stones, like the houses of the station, and was once stuccoed. The whole was inclosed by a wall, at the north end of which was the door way, at the top of a flight of steps, which are placed at one side, instead of the front, evidently in order to avoid the torrent. On the architrave is the following inscription, of the time of Hadrian: the sigma has the ancient form of Σ, while the Ω is formed thus: ω.

Ὑπὲρ σωτηρίας καὶ αἰωνίου νίκης αὐτοκράτορος Καί-  
σαρος Τραϊανοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ σεβαστοῦ καὶ τοῦ παντὸς  
αὐτοῦ οἴκου. Διὶ Ἡλίῳ μεγάλῳ Σαράπιδι καὶ τοῖς  
συννάοις θεοῖς, τὸν ναὸν καὶ τὰ περὶ τὸν ναὸν, Ἐπα-  
φρόδιτος Καίσαρος Σιγηριανὸς ἐπὶ Ῥαμμίῳ Μαρτιάλῃ  
ἐπάρχῳ Αἰγύπτου, Μάρκου Οὐλπίου Χρησίμου ἐπιτρο-  
πέυοντος τῶν μετᾶλλων ἐπὶ Ρ. Προκουληϊανῷ.\*

Sarapis, the god to whom the temple is dedicated, seems to have been a favourite deity among the miners, since to him alone are dedicated altars and temples in the two principal mountains of Dokhán and Fateere, from which the Romans took their porphyry and granite.

This god, who is of Pontine, and not Egyptian, extraction, was introduced into Egypt in the reign of the first Ptolemy, and confounded, by the ingenuity of the priests, with the husband of Isis, who was then the most popular deity in Egypt; nor does it seem that the Egyptians, if they ever worshipped him at all,

\* [This and the other inscriptions are in fac-simile in the MS. of Mr. Wilkin-  
son, that is to say, they are in capitals with the words undivided, as usual in Greek  
inscriptions.]

considered him in any way different from Osiris, except inasmuch as he was, according to Plutarch, 'the mere union of Osiris and Apis,' 'Apis being a beautiful image of the soul of that god.'\* The Greeks, however, paid him a peculiar and distinct worship; he has been identified with Pluto, Apis, Æsculapius, and Osiris. His votaries were principally foreigners, or those who made their religious tenets subservient to the wishes of their monarch; for, says Macrobius, the oppression of the Ptolemies could never prevail on the Egyptians to worship this god in other parts of the country with the same forms and ceremonies as practised in Alexandria, because they did not accord with those in use for their other gods.†

He was frequently worshipped in company with Isis, who is found mentioned together with him in the dedication of his temples, and often, indeed, with her name first; which precedency of the female sex was an *old* Egyptian custom, as we learn from Diodorus.

A little farther up the valley, and on the opposite side, is a small ruin, consisting of a walled area, from which leads a flight of steps to a platform, uniting it to an adytum, which is nearly square,—a colonnade leading up the centre supported the roof, on each side of which was a raised bench;—near it, in the bed of a torrent, was a round block, on the circumference of which are the remains of an inscription, recording a dedication to Isis (written ΕΙΣΕΙΔΙ), by a military officer of the name of Phanius Severus, in the twenty-second year of the reign of Adrian. As that emperor reigned a month less than twenty-one years, he appears to have been dead at the time of the dedication, though the knowledge of his death had not yet reached this distant station.

A great quantity of pottery is found in every direction among the ruins, particularly a blue and glazed species, probably used for domestic purposes. There is also much glass and fish-shells, the latter of which are probably the remains of one of the chief articles of food of the ancient inhabitants. They communicated with the sea by a high road leading from the S.E. side of these mountains, of which I shall afterwards have occasion to speak. The roads on the eastern side of the valley are not so wide, neither are the quarries so extensive as on the western mountain; the roads are not, however, unworthy of remark: constructed with the same attention, they fully answer the purpose for which they were intended, though the skill of the engineer was not so much called for.

In the quarries there is nothing remarkable but the remains of a few furnaces for repairing and tempering the tools; for, it is

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\* Plutarch de Is. and Os., c. xxviii. xxix.

† Macrobius, lib. i., c. 4.

evident, from the quantity of small chippings of porphyry, that the large blocks were chiseled, and, probably, nearly finished on the mountain. There were several small huts, and others, on the summit of the hill, for these seem to have been watch-towers, perhaps as look-outs, on the different heights; in one of these huts, a stone, which formed part of the wall, is inscribed with the name Socrates.

The western mountain presents more to interest the traveller. At the base of it is a small village, in which was worked the porphyry that was sent down by the superb road, which terminates here. The larger blocks were cut into sarcophagi, or baths, and tazze, in a court without the houses, which were themselves very small; many of the blocks are still in the position in which the workmen left them. The road which leads from this village up the mountain is fourteen paces broad: at the distance of about every twelve paces are piles of stones. Innumerable smaller roads diverge from it, in various directions, to the different quarries.

On the principal road are buttresses, or solid piles of stone, raised at intervals, probably for lowering the larger blocks; and in some parts we observed inclined descents, paved with great care, which must have been for the same purpose. It is probable that the column, or other kind of wrought stone, was placed on a sledge (similar to that represented in the grottoes of Massara), which was gently lowered by means of cranes attached to the buttresses.

The road, cut into the sides of the rock, is built over the beds of the smaller torrents, winds round the precipices of the larger ones, and is supported wherever the rock was not solid, by a well-built wall. From one of the quarries the stones had been thrown down over the road below, from which they had afterwards been cleared, either by carrying them away or by rolling them down to the ravine beneath: beyond this was a large quarry, in which we found an unfinished porphyry\* column; its dimensions were twenty feet two inches long, by three feet six inches diameter. This, as well as several bases of columns higher up the mountain, sufficiently prove that large blocks were worked nine hundred or a thousand feet above the plain; nor was this without its advantage in a stone of so heavy a nature, particularly as the workmen were not deficient either in number or skill, and that, consequently, the risk of lowering the blocks was but trifling, when compared with the benefit arising from lessening their weight. Many of the

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\* All these quarries are of red porphyry, and of a most beautiful kind;—it is that close-grained stone, so much of which is found, and still admired, amidst the ruins and magnificence of ancient and modern Rome. It has been thus described, ‘lapides porphyretici tenuibus astris distincti;’ and Pliny calls it ‘leucostictos,’ observing that it is interspersed with white spots—‘candidis intervenientibus punctis.’

blocks were raised on stones, that they might be more easily accessible to the workmen.

Some marks on the blocks seem to indicate the number of stones cut by each workman ; and that the men who worked here were condemned\* to complete a certain quantity of work, according to the offence for which they were sentenced ; for nothing can induce me to think that any men but those who were condemned to this labour, would ever endure the heat and oppressive toil of cutting blocks from a porphyry quarry in a climate like this, unsheltered, as they must have been, from the scorching rays of a summer sun. Those who were employed in the valley, or lived in the town, had a better lot. It appears, from an inscription at Gertassy, in Nubia, that the workmen drew forth a certain number of stones, after which they were probably exempt from labour, unless condemned for life, as was sometimes their lot. The writer of that inscription, after having finished his task, very naturally performed his vow to the tutelary goddess of the quarries for his deliverance.

Continuing to ascend the mountain, we met with the base of a column three feet nine inches in diameter ; and, beyond it, came to a steep, inclined plane, similar to that on the eastern mountain. On the point of this height was a watch-tower, which though at some distance from the summit of the mountain, seems to shew the termination of the works here. In the valley, or ravine, to the N.W. of these quarries, is another village, but apparently of a later date than the Bélet Kebeer ; the walls of the houses are in good preservation, and the doorways and windows are still entire. It is built on either side of the bed of a torrent, whose course was confined within the walls which protected the houses from its force, and served as their foundations. On one side is a cistern, from which the water was admitted to the torrent by a small channel, leading obliquely from it ; on the other is a large house, probably belonging to the commandant, at one end of which a flight of steps led to a terrace above. There were several mortars cut out of rough blocks, which had evidently been used on the spot, with the remains of furnaces, and much of the blue and other pottery. On ascending the western mountain, it struck me that the works there were of a posterior date to those on the eastern side of the valley, and the appearance of the village confirmed my opinion ; indeed, after the time of Adrian, much porphyry was carried to and used at Rome ; and the greater importance of this mountain may account for the unfinished state in which the temple

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\* I since find that Aristides, *Orat. Ægypt. Oper.*, vol. iii., in speaking of this mountain says, that to these celebrated porphyry quarries were taken those malefactors who were condemned to the public works ; and Eusebius tells us that Christians were also sent thither.

of Adrian, in the other valley, was left. A little lower down this valley are other houses, in one of which we found a broken bath, and a tazza, which had merely received its shape.

Gebel Dokhán, 'the mountain of smoke,' is, perhaps, an old traditional name by which the people of this desert designated the spot when numerous furnaces continually smoked here; its Latin name was porphyrites mons.

It was long a matter of doubt\* where the famous porphyry quarries were situated, though so often mentioned by ancient writers: some went so far as to question whether Egypt produced this stone at all, because the quarries happened not to be on the Nile, and because Egyptian statues were rarely made of this material;—it was supposed to have come from Arabia, and the 'rubet porphyrites in eâdem Ægypto' of Pliny was not sufficiently convincing. But Ptolemy proves that the quarries were in the mountains which extend southward from the calcareous ridge of Troicus †, on the western side of the Arabian Gulf.

In the time of Claudius ‡ statues of porphyry were first taken to Rome by Triarius Pollio; but we do not learn that any quarries were then worked, or that the mountain from which the stone came was yet known to the Romans. It is probable, however, that the Egyptians, or Greco-Egyptians, wrought them long before the time of Claudius, though we find no proofs of this fact on the spot.

The objects for which the porphyry was used by the Greeks and Romans were principally baths, columns, tazze, statues, and for ornamenting their houses: we may also add, for making mortars, though I do not think the pyrrhopœcilum which Pliny says was in great request for that purpose, and which came from the Thebais, was porphyry, but rather syenite. For statues porphyry was but ill suited from its hardness and colour, nor does it appear that they were ever much admired at Rome; but this stone served often for the drapery, while the heads, arms, and legs were of white marble. The lower age revived the bad taste of porphyry statues, and many are still in existence.

Over the mountain, which closes the southern end of the valley of Bélet Kebeer, runs a zigzag road, on the top of which is a watch-

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\* But if the existence of the porphyry quarries in Egypt was doubted, what has not been said of the gold-mines of Osymandyas? This has been stated to be a direct falsehood, and merely intended to deceive the Greeks; the gold-mines of Diodorus, Agatharcides, and Sheríf Edrísí, however, are still found among the Abábde mountains, to the south of the Cosséir road.

† Universale litorale latus juxta Arabicum Sinum tenent Arabes Ægyptii, Ichthyophagi, in quibus dorsa montium sunt, Troici lapidis montis, et alabastreni montis, et porphyriti montis, et nigri lapidis, et basaniti lapidis.—Ptol. Geog. lib. iv., c. 5.

‡ Statuas ex eo Cl. Cæsari procurator ejus in Urbem ex Ægypto advexit Triarius Pollio, non admodum probatâ novitate.—Plin. lib. xxxvi., c. 7.

tower ; the passage seems to have been closed, when necessary, by a gate. Below, on the other side, is another small building ; and beyond, in this valley, towards the S.E., is a *station* of some size ;\* it consists of two forts, one merely a thick wall, which runs round a granite rock, with a doorway defended by two towers ; there are no remains of houses within, and there is scarcely more than room, in some places, for a man to pass between the wall and the rock. The other is the kind of fort usual in these stations, supplied with what I suppose to have been a well, and with convenient houses or rooms ; it is fortified with towers ; those at the entrance had a staircase leading up to the top ; on the outside is a walled inclosure, containing large apartments, probably intended to receive the stones as they passed from Dokhán, the merchandise from Myos Hormos, the beasts of burden, and the men who accompanied them ; while the fort would be set apart for the soldiers or permanent residents, who had the superintendence of the necessary supply of water always kept at these places, or were here posted to give additional assistance, if required, to those who passed, and to repair the roads. From this station a superb road led through the plain and over the beds of torrents, which run between these mountains during the rainy season. It was, in some parts, forty-eight or fifty feet wide ; along the sides were placed stones which had been cleared from it, and afterwards served to mark its limits ; at intervals were larger heaps, and on the heights, at the side, piers of stones, regularly built to serve as road-marks ; which last, being out of the reach of the torrents, are generally in good preservation. But, in most places, there are no other vestiges of a road, which, having been exposed for ages to the force of those water-courses, has at length been swept away. It must have cost great labour to keep it in repair ; but hands were numerous, and it would only happen every five or six years that the torrents would descend with so much force as materially to injure the road. I attempted in vain to make an estimate of the inhabitants of the villages and houses at Dokhán and Feteereh ; there must have been many thousands, besides a great number who always lived at the works on the mountains ; indeed, if we calculate only the inmates of these different stations, and of Myos Hormos, we shall find a considerable population in this desert, where we now but rarely meet a few wandering Arabs with their flocks. At the above-mentioned station (which may be called the last on the Coptic road) the roads from Myos Hormos and Coptos unite with two from the valley of Dokhán, namely, that of the Bélet Kebeer, which crosses the southern extremity of that valley, and another which passes by Delr Amyessur, and thence among the

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\* There is another village on the east of Gebel Dokhán, in the valley at the skirts of the mountain, which I did not see.



skirts of the mountains, taking in its way the other small village, which I did not visit. This last road is followed by the camels on their way to Guttár, the other is only passable for unladen dromedaries; there is another short way to Guttár between Gebel Dokhán and Thúndebug, by which dromedaries can easily pass, but it does not appear to have been used by the ancients. Before Gebel Guttár, at the N. or N.W. extremity of the El Memfáyah chain, is a watering-place, called Moie-t-el-abd, or, 'the water of the slave; but in so small a quantity is the water, that it only suffices to fill one skin at a time. Not far from Guttár, between it and Gebel Thúndebug, we met with some Breccia verde; of other kinds of Breccia we had observed great quantities and varieties at Dokhán.

The beautiful valley which leads to the water of Guttár, is filled with fine seyáles, which at this time were particularly green, in spite of the want of rain; on continuing farther up the valley gradually diminishes in breadth, and presents the rugged appearance of a mountain torrent's bed, filled with large stones, till it terminates in a precipitous rock, overgrown with hanging water-weeds, down which the water drops slowly; below are palm-trees and rushes, and a basin which affords a plentiful supply of excellent water on digging a hole in the gravel of decayed granite, with which it is filled. There are innumerable figures scratched upon the rocks on the road to the water, and among them is an old tomb, probably Christian. I ascended the rock, and crossing the ravine above, in which were some smaller natural reservoirs, arrived at a stone building, which, from its appearance, is not very ancient: it consists of three rooms, and a kind of portico, or covering, supported on two pillars; nothing but the roof is wanting—the walls, windows, and door ways being all perfect. The Arab shiekh, my guide, at length pointed out a 'written stone,' which proved to be a Greek inscription, showing the building to have been a church. It lies on the ground, on the outside, and is broken, but few of the letters, I believe, are lost. The words are as follows:—

Φλαύιος Ιούλιος ὁ διασημότατος ἡγεμὼν Θεβαΐδος ὁ  
κατασκευάσας . . . . . καθολικὴν ἐκκλησίαν. Ἐπὶ  
. . . ἡτος ἐπισκόπου Μαξίμιανοπόλ(εως).

During our stay at Guttár the gazelles were so much pressed for water, that they ran through our encampment in the valley, and having satisfied their thirst returned the same way, for it was the only road to the watering-place, and these animals always prefer the valleys to crossing the mountains, unless in those parts where they have beaten tracks. This is even the case when closely pressed by dogs; and I have known them return and pass their pursuers when they found that the valley was nearly at an end. During our stay here some Abábde brought in some kepsh

(or mountain sheep), several taytals, and a hare. We observed, also, in our way to Guttár, and near the water, many partridges and grouse, some of which we saw also near the ruins.

From Guttár I set off to the sea to visit the ruins of Myos Hormos, which my friend, Mr. Burton, had discovered in a visit last year to the mountains on the coast. Myos Hormos is nothing more than one of the usual stations, except that it is laid out with a greater regularity of plan; it consists chiefly of magazines for depositing the merchandise, which was thence transported on camels by a commodious road to Coptos. This road, which as I before observed, joins those of Dokhán at the last-mentioned station, runs from that station to the sea in a perfectly straight line, (except where the angle of the mountains, near the sea, gives it a slight bend). It is very easily traced by the large piles of stones placed at intervals on either side; and some places still exist where the smaller stones are seen cleared off and ranged along the sides. Mr. Burton observed other roads higher up, which must also have led to Myos Hormos.

This station, so famous as the emporium of Arabian and Indian merchandise, from whence one hundred and twenty vessels sailed to India,\* has not now a single inhabitant, except such as the animal whose name it bore. Its outer walls were defended by towers, built of limestone from the neighbouring mountains; the other parts were constructed of rude stones, of various kinds, cemented together. The bases of the houses were of similar materials, on which was raised a superstructure of crude brick, which has since entirely disappeared owing to the rains and moisture of the sea air. The situation is a flat marshy plain, so low that I should even think the sea must occasionally cover the whole, except the ruins, which stand on ground rather more elevated, probably an artificial mound. No place can be more unhealthy; † during the summer months the atmosphere is charged with damp vapour, exceedingly oppressive, and resembling that of a Turkish bath. In the time of the prosperity of Myos Hormos, many were, doubtless, the victims of its unwholesome air.

The port is a small bay, which runs inland at some little distance on the northern side of the station; here the ships could ride at anchor, protected from the violence of the sea, and could quietly

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\* According to Gibbon they sailed at the winter solstice, and their return was fixed to the months of December and January; 'the principal objects,' he adds, 'of Oriental traffic were splendid and trifling; silk,—a pound of which was estimated not inferior in point of value to a pound of gold,—precious stones, and a variety of aromatics.'

† Though I remained there but one entire night, I returned to Guttár with an acute dysentery. A traveller intending to visit this place, ought not to be later than the month of May, nor earlier than October, and even then he should take bark as a preventive. But the whole of this coast is unhealthy, and, I believe, on both sides of the Gulf.

discharge their cargoes, which might either be deposited within the walls, or immediately transported on camels to the Nile. The accumulation of sand continually driven into the bay, has rendered it now so shallow, that no vessel could float in it even at high tide; the same must happen to the port of Cosseir, or any other on this shore (Pliny assures us there were once many on this side of the sea), if they are neglected; the water, however, in this bay being deeper than on any other part of the coast, and on one side there seems to be a sort of channel, where the principal current runs on the ebb and flow of the tide. On the southern side projects a point of land which, at high water, becomes an island, and appears to have rendered the entrance to the port circuitous.\* We found no remains of cisterns or wells. As to the Fons Tarnos, we must look for it in the low ridge of mountains about three or four miles off;—a watering-place still exists there; but the water is salt, though drinkable by camels. ‘Mox deserta ad Myos Hormon,’ says Pliny: and with reason may this be said of the whole coast for miles. To the south the eye wanders over a plain on which is neither herb nor tree, except the bushy salsaf† close to the water’s edge; one spot on the coast is resorted to as being entirely covered with salt, which the Arabs, as well as sailors of the Red Sea, collect; it is nearly opposite the Saffāgi or Jaffatine Isles. To the S.W. the place is bordered by the El Memfāyah chain of primitive mountains, which are at a considerable distance from the sea; on the W. and N.W. a low ridge of calcareous hills (uniting with a similar primitive range, a little to the north) approaches within four miles of the sea; and in the distance on the north is seen the mountain of Ez-zeit, so called from the quantity of petroleum found there; whence project two small headlands, forming two gulfs, at the entrance of which are many long sand-banks. May not this be the ‘Mons Eos of Pliny, or the ὄρος ἐν πεδίῳ μιλιτώδες’ of Strabo and Agatharcides?

Strabo describes three islands in front of Myos Hormos, two of which (he says) were thickly shaded with olive-trees, the third much less so, but full of meleagrides. The Saffāgi are not exactly facing the port; but the large island of Shadwan lies directly in front of it, and may perhaps be the ‘insula Lambe’ of Pliny. Possibly the olive mentioned by Strabo may have been the salsaf, for there is a great resemblance between the two trees; and I have no doubt that much oil could be extracted from the berry of the salsaf, which is small and green. The Arabs use the wood in making charcoal for gunpowder; their proportions are one kantār of charcoal, half a kantār of saltpetre, and of sulphur one rottle, or the one hundred and fiftieth part of a kantār. The tree grows in the sea, or close to the water’s edge. It is a bushy evergreen,

\* [Ἐῖτα Μυὸς ὄρεμον . . . λιμένα μέγαν, τὸν εἰσπλουνέχοντα σκολιόν. Strabo, p. 769.]

† Elæagnus.

sometimes rising to the height of ten or twelve feet, nor do I remember having ever seen it with a single trunk.

In spite of indisposition I could not bid adieu to these mountains without visiting the ruins of Fateereh. A circuitous road led us behind the ridge of E'Memfáyah to the watering-place of Sheib-el-benát; on the way we passed that of Gezzá, where there is salt-water; the valley which extends from it abounds in seyále trees; twenty-five minutes' trot beyond this is another, called Moie-t-Uksáyar, but as the water only remains there for one year after the rains, it was now dry. We observed several piers of stones marking an old road in this direction; some distance beyond is Am-kohleh,\* where there was still a supply of good water; and about two hours farther is Sheib-el-benát, where there was also a little water still remaining. This spot is so called from being the place of concealment of two Arab girls, who ran away from their parents, and were discovered here.

*May 29.*—Thermometer at sun-rise, 66° Fahrenheit, it was more commonly 68° at the same hour. We again met with piles of stones, and among them one which had been the burial-place of an Arab of the Maazy tribe, who was here killed by a party of Abábde; the offenders, according to the accounts of our Arabs, (who were Maazy,) had reason to repent of their crime, for no sooner was it known, than a large party of his companions set off for the deserts of the Abábde, and cut off eighty of the aggressors, whom they murdered, as a retaliation for the death of their friend. Many wonderful feats were told of this man, who, it seems, was no ordinary character either in his exploits or appearance: it was said that his look always struck terror into his enemies, and that he could tie his mustachios together behind his head. Such are the usual tales which these Arabs relate of former days. But as the scenes of action generally lie in the Maazy Desert, it would appear that they were always the weaker tribe, as they would certainly be found to be in the event of a renewal of hostilities. Indeed the Abábde seem, from the incursion which gave rise to the retaliation, to have advanced to the very extremity of this desert, and to have carried off booty without resistance.

Gebel Kabreet (the Mountain of Sulphur) lies to the W. or S.W. of Howasheea; and five miles beyond it, in a plain, is a spot called Moggat-el-Halfát, or the station of the Cowards, from the following circumstance: some Abábde had carried many camels and booty belonging to the Maazy from Gebel Máksary,†

\* The kóhhel is used by the women, and even sometimes by the men, to colour the edges of their eye-lids. There are four or five different kinds, all consisting chiefly of antimony, and all used for the same purpose. Perhaps the mountain may have received its name from containing antimony.

† Perhaps Gebel Mássara, for the Arabs of the desert never pronounce a name properly.

a mountain somewhere between Cairo and Suez, and retired with them to this spot, where a party of Maazy surprised them, retook the spoils, and put upwards of forty of them to death.

Near the tomb of the Arab is a watering-place, called after him, Moie Rooayshid;\* but the supply here also was now exhausted; a road leads up the ravine to it, and being marked by large heaps of stones,† is probably ancient. We soon afterwards descended to a large plain, on the opposite side of which was Gebel Fateereh.

At the eastern end of the plain ‡ another road leads to the watering-place of Amooné Másser; from its name, so much unlike those of modern origin, we hoped to find some remains, but were disappointed. The water which is preserved in a natural bason in the granite rock is excellent.

Having passed behind the ridge of Fateereh, we arrived at last at a small village containing twenty or thirty ruined huts. Thence taking an E.S.E. direction up another valley, we arrived at the ruins of a few houses, and some large unfinished columns lying on the ground; they were of the same kind of grey granite, found in all the quarries of this mountain; the two largest being twenty-nine feet eleven inches long, by three feet four inches in diameter, and the others twenty feet three inches long, by three feet two inches in diameter. There were also the bases of more in different directions, on one of which we discovered some letters; and having cleared away the earth which nearly buried it, we found a Greek inscription, containing the name of Ennius Priscus, a chiliarch (tribune) of the twenty-second legion.

Soon after leaving this spot we reached a very large *station*, which seems to be the ancient *Ἰδρυμα Τραϊανῶν*; it consists of a large fort of the usual kind, capable of containing a great number of men, defended by towers, and provided with several cisterns. On one side a considerable addition has been made, but we looked in vain for any inscription which could enable us to ascertain the time of this enlargement.

On the outside of it is another walled inclosure, containing two long rooms, intended, probably, for lodging cattle or for granaries, beyond which is a well. Outside the walls is a raised side-pave-

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\* A corruption of the original name Ráshid. If a person demands of another what road he is to take to any place, and the other tells him a good and safe way, his director is called Ráshid, because (yoorshid ile tareek) 'he shows him the good road;' he who goes by that road according to his directions is called moorshed; in this sense, therefore, Ráshid signifies 'a good guide.'

† The modern Arabs are contented with forming their road-marks with two or three stones, or sometimes by placing a single one on a rock in some conspicuous part of a ravine.

‡ To the S.S.W. of the descent of this plain is another watering-place called Gebel Euchdt. The water was dried up.

ment, probably used only during the rainy season; and eastward of the fort are baths and the house of the præfect; the former are all, with one exception, vapour baths, and arched, as was the custom, the light being admitted from the top, from which was suspended a chain to regulate the heat of the room.\* At the end of the centre room is a niche. The hypocausts are very perfect, as well as the pavement over them, and the flues at the sides of the walls still remain. Adjoining the vapour baths (sudatoria) is the warm bath, where we found but one small reservoir, built of stone and coated with stucco.

Behind the baths is a round temple, to which a broad road leads from the fort. At the top of a large flight of steps in the front, stood an altar of grey granite, (now broken in pieces,) on one side of which was the following inscription:—

‘Anno XII. Imp(erante) Traiano Cæsare Aug  
(usto) Germanico Dacico, per Sulpicium Simium  
præfectum Æg(ypti).’

In the area around lie capitals and bases† of unfinished columns; none of the shafts had yet been brought here, though two of the bases are in their proper positions on the step or foundation of the portico, over which, no doubt, four Corinthian columns, with an architrave, frize, and pediment were to have been raised. But of these component parts of the temple the only member that appears to have been ready for erection is an architrave, which lies just below the area, and bears a dedicatory inscription, of which the following is a copy:—

‘Υπὲρ σωτηρίας καὶ αἰωνίου νίκης αὐτοκράτορος Καίσαρος  
Τραϊανοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ σεβαστοῦ καὶ τοῦ σύμπαντος αὐτοῦ  
οἴκου καὶ τῆς ὑπ’ αὐτοῦ ἐπιταγέντων ἔργων ἐπιτυχίας.  
Δι’ Ἠλίου μεγάλου Σαράπιδι καὶ τοῖς συννάοις Θεοῖς  
τὸν ναὸν καὶ τὰ ἐπὶ τὸν ναὸν πάντα, Ἐπαφρόδιτος  
δούλος Σειρηγιανὸς, μισθωτῆς τῶν μετάλλων, κατεσκεύ-  
ασεν ἐπὶ Ραμμιῷ Μαρτιάλι ἐπάρχῳ Αἰγυπτου· ἐπιτρό-  
που τῶν μετάλλων Χρησίμου Σεβαστοῦ ἀπελευθέρου  
ὄντος πρὸς τοῖς τοῦ Κλαυδιανοῦ ἔργοις, Αουΐτου χιλι-  
άρχου σπείρης πρώτης Φλαουίας Κυλίκων ἱππικῆς.  
Β. (Ἦτει δευτέρῳ) αὐτοκράτορος Καίσαρος Τραϊανοῦ  
Ἀδριανοῦ, φαρμούθη κῆ (28).

Having passed the intended portico, three doors lead into a

\* Vitruvius, lib. v., c. x. ‘Mediumque lumen in hemispherio relinquitur, ex eoque clypeum æneum catenis pendeat, per cujus reductiones et demissiones perficitur sudationis temperatura.’

† In one or two of these bases the block forms also part of the lower end of the shaft, which is here two feet one inch and a half in diameter. The capital is one foot seven inches and a half in diameter, and the same in height.

chamber, in which either stood, or were to have stood, columns and pilasters ; in the centre is a fallen altar, on which, after having cleared from it the rubbish which nearly buried it, we found the following inscription :—

Annus Rufus Leg XV Apollinaris præpositus ab  
optimo Traiano operi marmorum Monte Claudiano  
v(otum) s(olvit) l(ibenti) a(nimo).

The altar, which was nearly square, had never been finished, except on the inscribed side.

On the right-hand side, entering the chamber, is another apartment, with a niche, behind which is a double wall, and, in the intermediate space, just room enough for a man to stand conveniently. Another chamber facing this apartment has also a secret passage behind the wall ; and between two staircases leading from the area there is a singular round closet supported on the walls. There is nothing else remarkable in this building except numerous niches in various parts of the walls, and, in one place, a sun and asps, of Roman workmanship. The chambers have been vaulted and stuccoed, so that the portico alone seems to have remained to be added, when the works of Mons Claudianus were abandoned. This name was probably derived from some præfect in the reign of Trajan, not from the Emperor Claudius, as in that case the name would have been Mons Claudius. I am inclined to think that these quarries were only worked during the reigns of Trajan and Adrian.

In the *town* the houses are filled with broken cups and vases, and on some were a few Greek letters and devices of various kinds. Near the gate-way (on the inside) was an altar, which we had some trouble in digging out of the ground, and which proved, to our great disappointment, to be without an inscription ;—near it was a stone hollowed out in form of a patera.

In one of the houses, we found what I suppose to have been the stand of a table ; in others, mortars ; and near one was a large rude block of granite, hollowed out as if for water ; in another was an unfinished sphinx of hard slate, (the black stone of Ptolemy,) and near it a very neat little altar inscribed to Sarapis. The upper part is hollowed out in form of a trough or oblong basin, two inches and a half deep, and two inches and five-eighths broad at the bottom. It is of the grey granite of the quarries, like the large one before the temple. In one of the streets is a block of granite with the word *Κραμῆς* on it.

We found very few shells, but a great quantity of glass, some of which was very prettily cut ; and two small bottles of thick green glass, which I suppose to have been inkstands. We also met with some small pateræ of terra cotta near the temple.

To the N.W. of the baths and temple are quarries, where I observed large blocks with these marks on them, PD XXXII, PD XXXIII, PD Xb IIII, perhaps the initials of the workman, and the number of stones he had cut. Near them is a rock, under the shadow of which are two stuccoed tanks, intended, probably, to be filled for the use of those who worked in this quarry, as is still the custom among the felláhs hired to excavate the antiquities in the valley of the Nile. In the upper workings was a round block, ten feet one inch and a half in diameter, with a projecting part on one side, making an addition of another foot; its height was three feet; and it had the form of a rough capital. Near it was another of similar dimensions. In this quarry was also a stuccoed cistern; and, indeed, all of them were furnished with small tanks or with cisterns formed in the rock, or built of stone and afterwards stuccoed. The quarries are very extensive, and there are several convenient roads leading through them, though not so numerous and well-formed as those of Gebel Dokhán. In the quarries, as well as in the valley below, we observed many large blocks, apparently intended for capitals; one of these was a round block ten feet two inches in diameter, and four feet two inches in height;—beyond it is a column, eight feet in diameter and twenty feet long, besides what is buried in the ground. Close to it is another of equal size but more covered. Mr. Burton saw two columns fifty-nine feet three inches in length and eight feet six inches in diameter, quite finished, except that one or two projecting pieces of the stone, like the trunnions of a gun, and intended for fastening cords to remove the columns, still remained; the others had been broken by some accident, and some of the pieces had been cut up for other purposes. Another column lies in the plain, the shaft of which is twenty-six feet seven inches and a half long, and each fillet one foot; the fillet at the base is four feet two inches in diameter. Near it is a round block, perhaps intended for a capital, eight feet seven inches in diameter, and four feet four inches high; another six feet six inches in diameter, and four feet six inches in height; another nine feet one inch and a half in diameter, and four feet four inches and a half high; another block lies on one of the roads, which lead to the quarries on the hill, seventeen feet long, and about eight feet in diameter; it was once much longer, but was broken in its descent; other pieces of ten feet and a half in length, and some longer;—some smaller lie near it, no doubt parts of the same.\* Many of the large blocks are raised on small stones, whereby their positions were easily

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\* At Sheikh Seïd, a little south of the ruins of Antinoë, on the Nile, I found a block,—intended, apparently, for a capital,—which was fourteen feet in diameter, and six feet nine inches in height; but this was of calcareous stone, whereas those at Fateereh are of hard granite.



varied according to the pleasure of the workmen. They stand generally on platforms, a little elevated above the plain or the road, from which they were, when finished, easily lowered upon sledges or rollers. I took drawings of two of them thus placed, which were eight and a half feet in diameter. The building for which these large columns were intended could be of no ordinary dimensions, for the column, including base and capital, could not have been less than sixty-eight feet; adding to this an architrave, frieze, and cornice of seventeen feet, the height will be increased to eighty-five feet without the pediment.

The columns, when prepared, were to be dragged to the Nile, if directly, to Coptos, upwards of sixty miles; but if by the road of Dokhán, which, from the great convenience of the stations on it was more probably the route, the distance was considerably greater. It is hardly possible that a column could arrive at Rome from these quarries in less than a year.

At some little distance to the west of the town, or fort, is a long room, the roof of which was once supported on pillars built of stones; it was intended, perhaps, as a stable for the beasts of burden. Continuing a little lower down this valley, we turned to our left into another, along which ran the old road to Cosseir. We soon reached the first station, which is built on either side of a small mountain-torrent's bed. On one side, on an elevated mound, stands a fortress or fortified town, defended with towers, attached to which is a room containing a large cistern;—there is another smaller one without the wall, close to which are two troughs for the use of the camels and other animals. In none of these forts have I ever seen more than one gateway, except at Myos Hormos; nor can they be considered as regular Roman hybernacula or permanent military stations, but merely as fortresses or fortified towns. Beyond this we observed the usual road marks, constructed with great care on the heights. The distance from hence to Kosseir, according to the Arabs, is as follows:—

From Fateere to Kreimouseéf	{	1½ day, or, in fact, only 13 or 14 hours;—there is water and an old station.
„ to Ankéil . . . . .	1½ day;—water.	
„ to Ambagi. . . . .	0 5 hours;—water.	
„ to Kosséir. . . . .	0 2 hours.	

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Days 3 7 hours.

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But this distance is, as usual, greatly exaggerated; the whole journey from Guttár to Kosseir might be performed in three days with ease, from Guttár to Fateere being a very short day. After Ankéil is Gebel Seega, where there are said to be ruins in the

mountains, and several old roads leading across the Wady of the same name, which extends, I believe, to the sea; I do not conceive that the distance from Ankêil to Kosseir is, in reality, more than eighteen or twenty miles, making about four dromedary hours.

After our return to Guttâr I took leave of Mr. Burton, and set off for Kénéh, by the old road from Dokhân to Coptos. In the Wady Guttâr, where the road crosses the valley, is a small station, where I observed a trough that probably belonged to a cistern, destroyed by the torrent, which has carried away the eastern wall of the station, and almost every vestige of the buildings usually found outside these forts. The direction of the road is still discernible from the piers of stones built on the heights or on the road side. Three hours and a half's trot brought us to the third station, where we observed, for the first time, one of those large wells, described by Strabo: it occupies about a quarter of the fort, and once, no doubt, afforded a plentiful supply of water. On the decrease of this supply was probably sunk a small well, which is seen at the side, and has the appearance of a later date; from it ran a channel to a cistern, but the greater part of it is now destroyed. The outer walls of this place are built of the usual rude stones, cemented together, the towers are of crude brick; those on the sides of the door way, as usual, had staircases, and contained an upper room, on each side of which was an arched window; the others seem to have been built only to strengthen the walls, and are rather buttresses than towers. The walls of the houses are of crude brick, raised on a foundation of stone: the roofs were apparently vaulted; one of these still remains. Near the well is a tower of crude brick, which may have been intended for raising water. On the northern side is an inclosure, which received, perhaps, the passing loads, and lodged the men and camels. On the south-east corner are troughs which were filled from the cistern, out of which the water was probably raised by poles and buckets, or baskets, as is still the custom among the fellâhs of Egypt.

We had now left the high mountain of E'Memfâyah far to our left; and our road continued amidst the low skirts of the primitive chain, which we at length quitted, and entered a large plain, on one side bounded by the primitive, and on the other by the secondary, mountains, which extend to the Nile; before us lay other secondary hills, to which we directed our course. The breadth of the plain, in the broadest part, that is, from the western secondary to the higher primitive chain, is about forty miles. The former of these ridges is called, in these parts, Gebel Abou-selébbe, so called, according to the Arabs, because it contains good water, preserved in a basin in the rock, which is so deep that they are obliged to use a 'selébbe,' or rope, to raise it. Opposite,

and to the south-east of this, rises another small mountain, called Eggeer, also secondary; it is between these two that the plain terminates, or, at least, becomes narrower. At the extremity of some low hills, which form the eastern and south-eastern skirts of Gebel Abouselébbe, stands the second station, on the road from Keneh to Dokhán, called by the Arabs 'sághee,' or 'the water-wheel,' no doubt from large wells still remaining, from which the water was probably raised by wheels. One of the wells is of an unusual size, and sunk in the rock, but has been partly filled up with decayed walls, rubbish, and earth, washed into it by the rains; at its brink are troughs, a cistern, and a paved channel for the rain water to run into it from the court or inclosed space in which it stands. This is surrounded on three sides by an artificial mound, the gateway of which is built of hewn stone. On the west side stands the fort, and to the north of it is another well, below which is the inclosure which contained the magazines or lodging rooms.

Finding ourselves much pressed for water, owing to the badness of our skins, we dispatched, at half past nine A.M., two light camels to the Nile, with orders to return, as soon as possible, and to meet us on the road.

In the cool of the evening of June 9th, we set off for the first station, called by the Arabs Old Keneh, which we reached in four hours and a half, at a slow pace. One hour short of it we passed the ruins of four or five houses, close to two road marks; they are remains perhaps of some diversorium. Old Keneh is an ancient station, situated at the base of a small hill, on the point of which stands another fort. The upper contains no houses, but the lower is divided into rooms as usual, and has the usual inclosure annexed to its walls for magazines or lodging-houses. Without are troughs and a small cistern. Nothing can be more absurd than the name given by the Arabs to these ruins, which were a station on an ancient road leading to Keneh, and were distant from the real Cœne or old Keneh, which was near the modern town, at least thirty-five miles. A well-wooded valley runs from this to the large, open, and herbless plain of Keneh.

We set off next morning, June 10th, at a little before six, and at half past eight met the water camels on their return from the Nile. Not trusting entirely to skins, we had provided a few bottles of water, which still remaining untouched, would have been a sufficient supply till our arrival at Keneh, but our dromedaries had not tasted a drop of water for three days, which, at this season of the year, and during a continued journey, is much more to them than double that space of time in winter. At the latter end of April, they once passed six days without drinking, and were so little distressed, that they travelled twenty-five miles to the water

without being fatigued. We now gave each of them half a large skin, or about forty pints, which, though but a small quantity for a thirsty camel, was sufficient to recover them from their fatigue.

We left the old Coptos road, and continued in a direction nearly south to the palm-trees of Keneh, where, after so long an abode in the desert, everything appeared new and agreeable. Ripe water-melons were in abundance, and an universal verdure surrounded us; but nothing was so striking as the profusion and negligence with which water seemed to be lavished, an article which we had been in the habit of guarding as the most precious of our provisions. The Nile had already begun to rise, and promised another rich harvest, which it only requires a more energetic people, and a better government, to render doubly profitable.

III.—*Extract of a Letter from Mr. Alexander Loudon to W. T. Money, Esq.* Dated 24th May, 1831, on his passage to Europe from Java. Communicated by Mr. Barrow, and read 28th November, 1831.

‘ IN July last, when returning from a visit to my brother-in-law, Mr. Valek, in the interior of Java, I examined, in company with several others, the *Guevo Upas*, or Valley of Poison, perhaps the most extraordinary place in the world; and as a description of it may not be uninteresting, I enclose the following copy of a letter which I have this day written to Dr. Horsefield, the botanist, who was many years in Java.

‘ “ In the publications of the Batavia Society of Arts and Sciences, I have often read with pleasure your travels and experiments, and particularly that on the *Pohu Upas*, at Barjowargée, (where I was resident in 1811,) as well as your *Tour*, published by the same Society, in the eighth volume of their Transactions. Whilst at Batur, you state (p. 24), ‘ The *Guevo Upas* is dreaded by the natives, and, according to their account, resembles the *Grotta del Cane*, near Naples: but they could not be prevailed on to conduct me to this opening.’

‘ “ The object of this letter is to acquaint you that, on the 4th July last, I visited the valley in question, on my return from a tour through the districts of Bagalun, Barjownas, and Ledok. I should be happy to have an opinion upon such a phenomenon of nature. As you have examined the mineralogical constitution of the range of mountains, I know no person so capable of giving an opinion on the Valley of Death as yourself. The following is an extract from my journal on the subject.

‘ “ *Batur, 3rd July, 1830.*—This morning, while walking about the village with the Pattv, (native chief,) he told me that